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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutănová** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd and 33rd meetings, on 6 October and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.3 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2003;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/59/349);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004 (A/59/75);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on a preliminary review of its statute and working methods (A/58/343);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/59/34).

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(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the in-depth review of its statute and working methods (A/58/343/Add.1 and 2).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.24

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 22 December 2004, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/59/L.24), which was submitted by the representative of South Africa on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the coordinator of the informal consultations and Vice-Chairman of the Committee made oral corrections to the text of the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.24 without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, as orally corrected, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Cuba and Nigeria.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/230 of 23 December 2000, 56/245 of 24 December 2001, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002 and 58/286 of 8 April 2004,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2003,[1] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004[2] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit,[3]

Noting with appreciation the recent adoption by the Joint Inspection Unit of internal working procedures and mechanisms to complement its standards and guidelines, which are aimed at improving the quality and impact of the Unit's activities,

Recognizing that in order for the Unit to further improve its effectiveness, the provisions of the statute of the Unit should be fully implemented,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2003;[1]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Unit for 2004;[2]

3. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit;[3]

4. *Decides* to discontinue the requirement for the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit;

5. *Considers* that the implementation in full of the provisions of the statute of the Unit should contribute to the enhancement of its role and an increase in the effectiveness of its activities;

6. *Urges* Member States requested to propose candidates for membership of the Unit to strictly adhere to the qualifications and experience outlined in paragraph 1 of article 2 of the statute;

7. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that candidates have experience in at least one of the fields, illustrated as follows: oversight, audit, inspection, investigation, evaluation, finance, project evaluation, programme evaluation, human resources management, management, public administration, monitoring and/or

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/59/34).
[2] A/59/75.
[3] A/59/349.

programme performance, as well as knowledge of the United Nations system and its role in international relations;

8. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to ensure the full implementation of the procedures and mechanisms for reviewing the qualifications of proposed candidates as outlined in paragraph 2 of article 3 of the statute of the Unit, including through joint consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination,[4] as well as drawing, as appropriate, on relevant expertise from expert and intergovernmental bodies concerned with budgetary and human resources matters, and through consultations with the States concerned, after which the President of the Assembly would submit the list of such candidates to the Assembly for appointment;

9. *Also invites* the President of the General Assembly to review the procedures followed by the Assembly for the appointment of inspectors, with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the application of paragraph 2 of article 3 of the statute, bearing in mind the procedures followed for the selection of members of other expert bodies and to report to the Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixtieth session for its decision, as appropriate;

10. *Reaffirms* paragraph 2 of article 11 of the statute of the Unit, and requests that the Unit, as a whole, also take responsibility in the exercise of its collective wisdom with regard to all its reports, notes and recommendations, in order to improve the effectiveness of the Unit;

11. *Re-emphasizes* paragraph 9 of its resolution 56/245;

12. *Decides* that the Unit shall perform its functions and responsibilities strictly in accordance with the provisions of its statute;

13. *Also decides* that the programme of work of the Unit shall be collectively approved, providing the rationale for choice as well as the relevance of the envisaged outcome to improving management and methods and promoting greater coordination between organizations;

14. *Affirms* that, in the implementation of article 18 of the statute of the Unit, the Chair shall be responsible for overseeing the Unit's programme of work, including, in the event of disagreement, the division of assignments, and for enforcing the internal working procedures of the Unit to ensure, through collective responsibility, the quality of its reports;

15. *Welcomes* the peer review system established by the Unit, and decides that if, in the opinion of the majority of the inspectors, the report in question does not meet the established quality standards, the Chair shall reflect such views and the reasons therefore in the introduction to the report;

16. *Emphasizes* the desirability of continuity in the term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair, and calls upon the Unit to bear this in mind in implementing article 18 of the statute, so as to re-elect the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman for overlapping terms, thereby balancing the need for institutional memory and reasonable rotation;

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[4] Formerly known as the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

17. *Also emphasizes* the need to assess resource management from a system-wide perspective, including the contribution of, and coordination between, organizations;

18. *Decides* that the Unit shall mainly focus on identifying means to improve management and to ensure that optimum use is made of available resources, as stipulated in paragraphs 1 to 3 of article 5 of the statute, and to this end the Unit will set out management criteria and methods for assessment of management performance and effectiveness relevant to participating organizations;

19. *Also decides* that the Unit shall include in its annual reports, information on implementation and the results achieved by organizations in respect of their follow-up to the recommendations of the Unit, as endorsed by their legislative bodies, and the arrangements put in place by participating organizations for reporting thereon;

20. *Further decides* that the Unit, as part of its focus on management issues, should assess the development and application in participating organizations of the principle of accountability in its relevant reports;

21. *Decides* that the Unit shall undertake inspections with a sharp focus on the areas stipulated in paragraphs 1 to 3 of article 5 of the statute, bearing in mind paragraphs 18 and 20 above;

22. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Coordination, in performing its programmatic, coordination, monitoring and evaluation functions, as contained in its mandate, to consider relevant reports of the Unit;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the staff recruited according to article 19 of the statute fully meet the qualifications and have proved experience in specific areas required to assist the Unit in the fulfilment of its functions, namely, inspection, investigation and evaluation;

24. *Reaffirms* that the working languages of the General Assembly are those of the Unit, in application of article 51 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and also reaffirms that the working languages of the Secretariat of the United Nations are those of the secretariat of the Unit, in application of Assembly resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946;

25. *Decides* to continue providing translation in all official languages for the reports of the Unit and also to provide interpretation, as necessary, within existing resources;

26. *Reaffirms* its request to the Secretariat of the United Nations and all participating organizations to facilitate the work of the Unit, including, in particular, through offering full access to all relevant information, as required by the Unit;

27. *Also reaffirms* its request to the executive heads of the participating organizations that have not yet done so to take the steps necessary to facilitate the consideration of and action on the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit, and invites the legislative organs concerned to consider the system and take action in that regard;

28. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure respect for the separate and distinct roles and functions of external and internal oversight mechanisms and also to strengthen the external oversight mechanisms;

29. *Decides* to consider the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution, which are aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the Unit, at its sixty-first session.